11: Haguenauer--34 T-3 (no date) 1929 Formosan Aborigines
116, 595, 837 Atayal

Polygamy among the Tayal is forbidden, and the husband must be faithful to his wife, and protect her.

If a Tayal wife is mistreated by her husband's family [35] she can go home to her parents. But this is a very serious act, for it entails not only a divorce, but a rupture between the two families. It is a case of vendetta, and the only way of avoiding a reprisal on the part of the wife's family is by paying an indemnity. Usually an unhappy wife just asks a third person to intervene, it may be the village chief, or some one else. If the husband is at fault, he is scolded. If the husband is guilty of adultery, the wife has the right to leave the house, and the husband cannot ask her family to return the sum that he paid in order to marry her. If the wife is guilty, her spouse has the right to repudiate her and to ask for the restoration of this sum. When the divorce proceedings are over, each family must kill a pig and distribute the pieces among the other families in the village. A Tayal woman who has been repudiated never goes back to her family; she has to marry again or live alone.

19: Guérin and Bernard--559-560 G-3 (ca. 1866) 1868 Formosan Aborigines
116, 548, 768, 837

Although there is no prudery in the language of the savages, prostitution is unknown, and there is almost no adultery; moreover, the husband has rights of a Draconian severity to protect his honor, and he would avail himself of them if it were necessary. [560] In the south, custom authorizes widows to sell themselves, but this was doubtless a means devised to enable them to make a living and support their young children.

20: Alvarez--258 [2]
116, 577, 581, 586, 837

(no date) 1927

Formosan Aborigines

"They are not strict moralists, though libertinage is severely punished in accordance with the laws established for it. Matrimony seems to be regarded as a transcendental act in the life of man. Among the Tsalisen, however, the man leaves the hut of his wife in case she has failed to become mother. By this, the marriage is regarded as dissolved, and both are free and can marry again."

22: Wiedfeldt--22 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 595, 837 Atayal

The Atayals are strictly monogamous, and look with contempt upon the Chinese practice of swelling the ranks of the family by concubines and upon the Japanese Geishas. Adultery is consequently rare, and is severely punished.

22: Wiedfeldt--22-23 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 837, 684, 597 Atayal

If a married woman commits adultery, she is killed by her husband or his clan, and the hut of the adulterer is burned. In addition to this, the guilty man, or his clan, has to pay the injured husband compensation as a substitute for the murdered woman. The amount of the payment is fixed by the head of the clan according to the adulterer between 25 and 30 rokosch-kaha. [MC: ornamented clothing used as money] If the adulterer is unmarried, he has no hut that can be burned, and he only has to pay half the compensation. If the guilty party or his clan does not pay [23] the injured party steals children out of the clan andsells them for adoption until the sum has been made up. No one knows what happens when a married man commits adultery with a single girl. To the Atayals, the real crime is adultery on the part of a wife.

24: Anonymous--91 [5] U-3 (no date) 1892 Formosan Aborigines
116, 462, 833, 837

If there is work to be done in the fields, the woman plows while the man stays at home to take care of the children. If the husband and wife cease to have intercourse, whether there are children or not, they live in promiscuity. During the warm season, one may see men and women having intercourse in the nude publicly, but adults avoid being seen by the younger people.

25: Plaut--41 U-4 (no date) 1903 Formosan Aborigines
116, 684, 837 Amis

Adultery and seduction. Adultery and seduction are judged in as many different ways as murder. Among the Amis and the Puyuma the usual punishment for adultery is execution; but the adulterer can ransom himself by paying a sum to the offended husband, provided the latter agrees to this.

25: Plaut--41 [2] U-4 (no date) 1903 Formosan Aborigines
116, 436, 684, 837 Atayal

The Atayal in the central part of Formosa punish the guilty wife and her lover by killing them at once. The seducer of a girl is also slain unless the girl's parents agree to accept ransom. The Atayal, who live farther north, make the adulterer give the injured husband between five and ten shell strings (the current money) or a weapon or other objects as compensation.

25: Plaut--41 [3] U-4 (no date) 1903 Formosan Aborigines
116, 684, 837 Tsou

The Tsoo require that the culprit give all of his personal property to the husband. If the adulterer is so poor that his possessions cannot be regarded as sufficient to constitute a ransom, the chief occasionally makes the payment for him, takes him as his servant and lets him work out the remainder. The wife's punishment is more severe. As her shame affects not only her husband, but her parents and brothers as well in an even greater degree, all take part in punishing her. After she has been bound and laid on the floor, each one comes up and whips the pubic region with rods. Then a vessel full of red pepper juice is brought, and each one in turn pours some of the biting sap into her vagina and spits in her face. After all of this they advise her to live a better life in the future, and finally she is given back to her husband.

25: Plaut--41 [4] U-4 (no date) 1903 Formosan Aborigines
116, 684, 837 Paiwan

Among the Paiwan all of the goods and chattels of the adulterer are given to the insulted husband; the woman is repudiated, and sent back to her parents or to her brothers. The seducer is seized by the members of the girl's family, taken to her house and forced to pay a fine which is commensurate with the position of the family in the tribe, and then he has to marry the girl.

26: Honda--471 [4] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 304, 535, 837 Bunun

A strange custom is the removal of the eye-teeth when the children are about five years old. Some of the people displayed tatooing on their hands and faces. The chief ordered the performance of a dance in my honor; ten or more women held hands and formed a large circle, swayed to and fro, and beat the rhythm with their feet as a monotonous song was heard. Men formed in a circle and engaged in the same movements. Marital faithfulness is very strictly maintained; even the chiefs have no more than one wife and are loyal to her.

31: Hofmann--623 [3] N-3 (1909) 1912 Formosan Aborigines
116, 291, 609, 301, 592, 837 Tsou

Members of the Tsou tribe are monogamous; adultery on the part of the woman does not occur at all. The women are very shy; they do not look strangers in the face, and they go about with their eyes downcast. Some of them wear garments made of cloth from China, others weave their own garments on primitive looms. I saw few women who were wearing ornaments; the men here are far more vain than the women.